MONTEREY NEWS

June 2005
VOLUME XXXV · Number 6

The Town

On May 9, Michèle Miller was elected Chair of the Select Board, and Jon Sylbert was sworn in for his second three-year term as Select Board member.

Pignatelli Visits

State Representative Smitty Pignatelli dropped in on a Select Board meeting, his visit prompted by a telephone call from Miller about growing public concern that mandatory sentencing needs to be reexamined as an effective tool for law enforcement. Pignatelli reported that he had two "very intense" meetings about the youths arrested in the Great Barrington "drug bust" last year, but that District Attorney Capeless is standing firm on prosecution. Pignatelli said that while he is concerned there is a growing tolerance for marijuana, he nonetheless favors discretionary sentencing.

About other concerns, Pignatelli said that DSL service is not in the immediate future for Monterey or other sparsely populated towns. At last year's constitutional convention, he was one of the sponsors of a constitutional amendment for universal health insurance. The House increased school transportation allocations by $4.5 million, and he hopes that the Senate will increase that.

Police Department

In May, the Police Department dealt with two disabled vehicles, a 911 call from a resident who has a problematic telephone, three false alarms, an arrest of a driver with a suspended license, a call about a sick fox, and a motorboat occupant fishing illegally on Brewer Pond. There was a motor vehicle accident on Main Road near Hupi Road in the middle of the night on May 15. The driver left the scene

Glynis Oliver

Ten years ago: Aftermath of 1995 Memorial Day tornado. River Road is under the fallen trees in back right center.

of the accident, but also left the vehicle's left front bumper with the license plate, so tracking was not too difficult. The driver was charged with leaving the scene of property damage and received a marked lanes violation.

Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus pointed out that the "No Motorboats" sign that used to be over the tubes leading to Brewer Pond is missing. Miller said she would ask Director of Operations Maynard Forbes to replace the sign prohibiting motorboats.

Building Commissioner

The contentious debate over the amount of time the Building Commissioner needs to spend on his job and what he should be paid for it may have been settled by a positive vote for his salary at Town Meeting.

Mark Cash, of Buckingham Road, was denied an extension on his deck because it extends too close to Lake Garfield; Cash was also denied a variance for a shed that is too close to the road. The contractor on a Beartown Mountain Road property has been told to stop building the driveway because it is so steep that it will wash out.

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Building Commissioner Don Torrico reported that handrails are not being installed on the stairways that Joel Schick is rebuilding on his Main Road property. His report led to a lengthy discussion amongst Select Board members on the definition of "applying a reasonable standard consistently," which ended inconclusively.

Torrico is processing many building permit applications. He met with Town Hall architect David Bixby before Bixby's appearance before the Select Board to discuss the issues standing in the way of a certificate of occupancy. There is no venting for the waste pipes in the basement, a situation to be handled by Forbes. When Torrico once again asked for internet access, Sylbert said he would notify the town technology consultant.

Education

School Representative Rick Mielke noted that Monterey represents almost half of all Southern Berkshire Regional students who choice out of the district. This alone should indicate to the school district that Monterey is looking for educational alternatives.

Jim Edelman visited the Select Board to express his interest in serving on the soon-to-be-convened Education Committee. Sylbert agreed to take the lead on organizing the committee and has scheduled a meeting on Monday, June 20, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall for all of those interested in serving.

The Select Board appointed Deborah D. Mielke as School Representative, and noted that she is already attending school board meetings with the outgoing School Representative, Rick Mielke.

Highway/Operations

June 13 at 11:15 a.m. is the deadline for bids for the gravel purchase specifications reviewed and approved at the May 9 Select Board meeting. Although Director of Operations Maynard Forbes thought he had the go-ahead to get the bids, at the May 16 meeting he reported that Miller, did not authorize its signing because she wanted to change something in the specifications. In Miller's absence on May 16, Select Board members Michael Storch and Jon Sylbert authorized Town Secretary Bonnie Tedder to sign the bid.

Forbes said the town usually receives about three bids from the half dozen eligible gravel companies within the fifteen-mile radius limitation for gravel sources. Bids come in at a "per yard" price that includes a bid from the pit and a bid for delivery. Because gravel changes after it has been laid and used, it must be tested at the pit of origin. Questions arose on the standardization and evaluation of gravel.

Miller asked Forbes to formalize his road reports so that over the course of a year the Select Board can see the total cost for each road.

Storch, who is now traveling with Forbes one day a week, reported there is

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a potentially large problem with a culvert on the south side of Route 23 between Roadside Cafe and River Road.

Storch also reported that six live cherry trees had been cut down on Gould Road on what is probably the town right-of-way between Richard Tryon's property and the town road. During a discussion about the propriety of Roger Tryon putting the rubble from the tree cutting along Rawson Brook, Conservation Commission Chair Chris Blair pointed out that farmers have certain rights that other people do not have, but the right to pollute a brook is not among them.

After Richard Tryon explained his measurement technique to the Select Board, Storch said this dispute was not about his right to cut down trees on the town right-of-way, since, according to the State Tree Warden bylaw, the Tree Warden is supposed to advise the Select Board before trees are cut.

Tree Warden Roger Tryon then wrote the Select Board about the tree cutting and came before the board to resolve the situation. Storch presented Tryon with a copy of the State Tree Warden section of Massachusetts General Law, which clearly states that live trees may not be cut without a hearing. Tryon's response that hearings are expensive was considered unreasonable. The Select Board offered to host such hearings at its regular weekly meetings. Tryon said that henceforth he will post a notice on a live tree at least seven days before cutting it down, and will also post the planned cutting in a newspaper.

Glynis Oliver

Cleanup on River Road after 1995 tornado.

Storch asked about the status of Bally Gally, stating that a local realtor had a client interested in renting it. Forbes said that 99 percent of the work is done, although this does not include the furnace, the funds for which were deleted from the 2006 budget. The paperwork has not been written or approved to qualify for affordable housing, so Bally Gally can be rented for a year at $1200–1500 per month. Torrico's initial inspection of the house revealed several minor violations, such as the height of the railings, the spacing between the deck framing, the lack of a 5/8-inch sheetrock layer between the house and the garage, and a defective smoke detection system.

Forbes reported that the Highway Department accepted the $99,565 bid for a Volvo loader from Tyler Equipment in East Longmeadow. The loader will be delivered by July 1, the same date that the department will begin painting stripes on certain paved roads.

Monterey received a check from Allan J. Desrosiers and Company for $5,426.80 to pay for the damage caused by one of their trucks on Mt. Hunger Road.

After Forbes presented a list of capital projects for the next four years, Miller asked that the requests be broken down by labor, materials, machinery, special studies, etc. Forbes was asked about the availability of money for a bicycle lane on the dangerous sections of Route 23. After the initial review of the proposed projects, Miller questioned the wisdom of repaving what might return to dirt roads.

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Memorial Day Activities

Fallout continues from Article 26 on the Town Warrant, the citizen petition asking the governor to bring the Massachusetts National Guard home from Iraq. When Linda Thorpe updated the Select Board about plans for the Memorial Day service at 11:00 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park and the parade following at 1:00 p.m., she said that the petition had provoked Monterey veterans and that many of them now refuse to march in the parade.

Sylbert, the only Select Board member who did not sign the citizen petition, stressed the importance of veterans' participation in the parade. He offered to talk with those who plan to boycott the parade, hoping to persuade them that Memorial Day activities both honor the fallen and instruct youngsters on the dignity and heroism of patriotism. Ray Tryon agreed strongly with the importance of veterans taking part in the parade.

After Leroy Thorpe reiterated the anger that veterans have about Article 26 and its aftermath, further discussion ensued about the parade. Steve Rose, a new Monterey resident, suggested that the discussion be centered on the fact that Memorial Day is for those who died, not about current politics.

Affordable Housing

Fred Chapman attended a Berkshire Regional Planning Commission meeting on how to set up a county-wide community land trust to assist in the appropriate creation of affordable housing on a regional basis, a concept supported by Sen. Andrea Nuciforo. The three Pioneer Valley counties are working on such a plan, and Great Barrington has provided affordable housing through its community land trust.

Sylbert said that it is in the town's interest to provide affordable housing "to keep 40B at bay." Section 40B of Massachusetts General Law enables developers to come into towns and bypass all bylaws, including zoning and wetlands acts, if their projects meet certain requirements for affordable housing. However, if the town is demonstrating that it is trying to meet the state requirements for affordable housing, 40B cannot be used by a developer. There is hope that Gould Farm will eventually participate in helping the town meet its requirements for affordable housing.

Town Secretary Bonnie Tedder told the Select Board that Executive Order 319 would enable Monterey to offer affordable housing. Applications for EO 319 require that the property's deed include a commitment to the program for fifteen years. It was suggested that the required monitoring of the property be done by the Department of Housing and Community Development in Pittsfield. The Select Board asked that it be updated weekly on the progress of the application under EO 319.

Lake Garfield

Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) president Janet Cathcart asked the Select Board why the lake's drawdown was on their agenda now, as posted on the town web site, rather than in the fall, closer to its occurrence. She was told that the agenda is a "work in progress" and should not be taken literally. Miller said that the agenda had become so unrelated to the board's actual work that it should be done away with and a new one begun.

Cathcart was told that Bonnie Tedder and Conservation Chairman Chris Blair are the important contacts for the lake's drawdown. On behalf of FLG, Cathcart offered to help put informational signs on the beach. Members of the Select Board agreed that it is not appropriate for the town to take over LakeFest. The consensus is that "The town doesn't do events." Cathcart offered to solicit a volunteer committee for future LakeFests, although it was acknowledged that if there is not sufficient interest, this year's LakeFest may be the last.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission began work on the Open Space Plan at its May 16 meeting. Implementing it will require a significant amount of work for the Commission over a five-to-ten-year period.

In reviewing the 5-inch-thick file on the Lake Garfield drawdown, Blair noted that Monterey has a verbal agreement with the state to conduct the drawdown

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through the end of this year, or, perhaps, next year. Soon, though, the town must develop a formal notice of intent to address the issue and adjust the time of the drawdown and refilling. The imposition the drawdown imposes on recreational activity is far outweighed by the safety issues that prompt the activity. Moreover, dropping the lake's level before it gets too cold allows the bottom-dwelling animals a better opportunity to burrow under the mud for the winter. Blair cautioned the Select Board about not letting the letter of conditions expire for the drawdown.

Storch said that there has been talk that the Scenic Mountain Act has an acreage requirement, a statement Blair refuted quickly, noting that triggers for the act are elevation and position on the slope.

Fairview Road

On May 2, a delegation concerned about Fairview Road presented the Select Board with a petition signed by sixty residents, asking the town to consider three alternatives for Fairview Road. Monica Webb, who has been instrumental in gathering information comparing the safety and maintenance of various types of road surfaces, said that a group of residents were concerned enough about the road's condition to insure that all preferences were considered. She echoed the sentiments of others by adding her hope that safety will remain a high priority when road maintenance and repair are necessary. Further, she pointed out that there is a great deal of support in Monterey for continuation of dirt roads to maintain the town's rural character.

Beartown Mountain Road resident Hillel Maximon, who had appeared before the Select Board on February 14, declared that what he believed was poor reporting in the *Monterey News* about citizen concerns for Fairview Road was "stirring the pot" of a difficult situation.

After signing the petition, Rick Mielke, who helped write the driveway law when he was a Select Board member in the 1980s, said he told the petitioners that the residents at the bottom of the hill must abide by the town's driveway restrictions. Specifically, it us up to the property owner to install the driveway and culvert, and to maintain them. "Everybody has to live by the driveway law," he said. "You can't block the flow of public water."

Sylbert said that the town must understand the financial implications of maintaining the aesthetics of gravel roads, and pointed out that development, road use, and speed are all part of the safety situation. And although there is a sign prohibiting truck traffic on Fairview Road, Monterey is unable to enforce it because of the weight restriction on Beartown Mountain Road imposed by the state.

Storch reported that after he and Ray Tryon discussed options for Fairview Road, Tryon offered to talk to the board about his expertise in road repair. Miller noted that there is much expertise on roads in town, and that her first preference would be to draw on that before spending more money on an additional engineering report. Ray Tryon talked with the Select Board, addressing many of the observations and suggestions in the May 2 letter from concerned citizens.

An average of 210 vehicles use Fairview Road each day, according to a count being conducted by the Highway Department.

This and That

Leroy Thorpe, chairman of the Parks Commission, expressed concern that people are walking dogs in Bidwell Park. He pointed out that the town has a bylaw prohibiting dog walking in both parks and along the beach. A request will be made to the Highway Department to put up signs reminding people that dog walking in parks is not allowed.

Cathcart asked that the minutes of boards and commissions be placed on the town website in an expeditious fashion.

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Tedder procured a grant from the Center for Ecological Technology for more recycling bins and signage for the Transfer Station. She will apply to CET in September for rain barrels to be distributed to town residents.

During a discussion of how to notify the town about the jet ski regulations, Cathcart was asked to put a notice in the FLG newsletter. Later Cathcart reported that the state had not yet approved the jet ski proposal.

Melissa Jette addressed the board about upgrading the public boat ramp at Lake Buel. She had filed an article for the Town Warrant, but it was misplaced and thus not presented for discussion at Town Meeting. She said that the state is concerned that cleanouts for runoff be maintained annually. Forbes pointed out that since the catch basin had not yet been built, the town should not need to appropriate any funds for its cleaning now.

Robert Lazzarini visited the Select Board to reemphasize the importance of "coming to grips" with retirement benefits, particularly health benefits. Lazzarini suggested that a small committee of resident "experts" meet and report to the Select Board on options. Miller said the task should be expanded to encompass all employee benefits. "Every town in the commonwealth should be clamoring for single-payer health care," she said. Forbes backed up Miller, saying that "everyone talks about it, but no one does anything about it."

Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard told the Select Board that the newly elected board members are injecting an enormous dose of enthusiasm and excitement into the board. The Planning Board will advertise in the *Monterey News* for candidates for the vacant slot on the board. Leonard asked about the possibility of the board hiring a secretary, and was told that it has a budget for such purposes.

Fire Chief Ray Tryon reported that the flags need replacing because they "look like hell." Forbes said that if someone wants to buy new ones, the Highway Department will hoist them.

The Select Board invites all citizens interested in serving on an Educational Committee to attend its evening meeting on Monday, June 20, at 7 p.m.

The Select Board decided not to reappoint Town Secretary Bonnie Tedder. A new job description with different hours for the Town Secretary is being developed, and the position is being advertised

—Laurily K. Epstein

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Monterey Town Meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. on May 7 by Town Moderator Mark J. J Makuc. Town Clerk Barbara Swan began to read the warrant, but stopped after a motion to pass the reading was made, seconded, and approved. The polls were then declared open, and Monterey residents, as they have been doing for many decades, began voting for town officers on paper ballots, processed in the venerable ballot box operated by Constable Ray Tryon.

Before town business began, Moderator Makuc asked the assemblage to remember the town officials who had passed away since the 2004 town meeting. In silence the town honored Jack Jefferson, Henry Makuc, and Mac Carlson.

Article 3, listing the salaries of the Select Board, Assessors, and the Board of Health, was accepted unanimously by voice vote after Richard Tryon objected to the payments made to the members of the Board of Health, pointing out that at one time duties of the Board of Health were performed by the Select Board.

The Budget

As Article 4, the budget request, was read, holds were placed on certain items. Several of the holds were for corrections, and several others for simple explanations.

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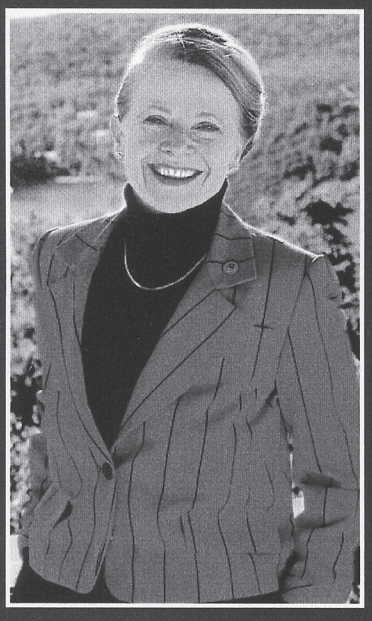

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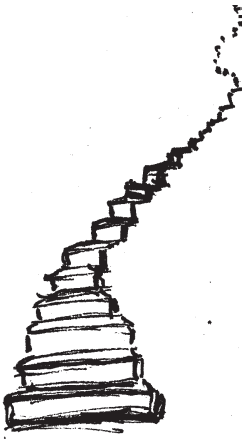
Yet others were contentious, exemplified by the Building Commissioner's salary.

Salaries of building commissioners in neighboring towns were offered as evidence that the figure in Monterey is too high. This information was countered by pointing out that other building commissioners receive benefits, which is not the case in Monterey. Some people expressed the view that the proposed salary was too much money for too many hours of work. Others pointed out that the $20,000 in fees brought in from the Building Commissioner's office is more than his proposed salary. Two members of the Select Board praised the job the Commissioner had done, particularly in the wake of erratic implementation prior to his arrival. After a lengthy airing of views on the job the Building Commissioner has been doing, a motion was made for a secret ballot on the amendment offered by Dean Amidon to reduce the salary from $15,600 to $10,500. The amendment was defeated 56 to 44, leaving the salary as requested in the budget.



Rick Mielke thanked the Select Board for his appointment as School Representative for Monterey for the last six years, and outgoing Chair Jon Sylbert thanked Mielke for the time and effort he had given to educational issues. Mielke suggested that Monterey form a School District committee that would begin by conducting a survey of parents' views of the educational choices they confront. Mielke also introduced Southern Berkshires School Superintendent Valerie Spriggs, who expressed interest in talking with parents in a different context.

Charles Ferris spoke in favor of increasing the library budget, saying that the library was one of the few institutions in town that benefits everyone. Several Library Trustees in attendance noted the limited space for new books, and no increase was made in the budget.

Sylbert explained that by error, the warrant did not provide funds for Lakefest. To correct for the inadvertent omission, he suggested that the town amend the appropriation for I Love Monterey day, for this year only, to allocate $2,500 to Lakefest. After a short discussion on the expense of Lakefest, there was an affirmative vote to increase the appropriation to $2,500 towards Lakefest in 2005 only.

The line item for health and life insurance for town employees elicited a spirited discussion. Finance Committee member Stan Ross said that Monterey pays 90% of the health insurance premiums for town employees, a figure some residents feel is too high. Select Board member Michael Storch said that the Salary Commitee formed three years ago had recommended that the town gradually reduce its contribution to 75%, and that all new employees begin with this figure. The Select Board at that time rejected the recommendation.

The health and insurance line item is $77,825 for eight employees, averaging $9,728 per employee, a figure questioned by town residents. Town Treasurer Pat Mielke pointed out that Monterey is using the least expensive health insurance program. She also noted that, for the first time, the line item included benefits for the full-time police officer now on the town payroll. Rick Mielke asked that the meeting support the town on this issue since providing health insurance has become part of doing business these days. Negotiating the percentage paid by the employee is one way to hold down town costs. The line item was approved.

Special Articles

Bob Lazzarini spoke to the issue raised in Article 19, a citizen petition regarding health insurance for retired employees. Lazzarini is concerned about finding the right mechanism for health insurance provision, a subject made more critical by the skyrocketing costs of the insurance. The provision put forth by Article 19 locks the town into perpetual participation that can only be negated by a special act of the state legislature. It was said that this provision is the most litigated section of Massachusetts General Law, and that towns all across the state are trying to withdraw from the program. Lazzarini suggested that the town review other options for health care provision for retired employees.

Len Simon stated that actuaries and other professionals can estimate future costs, and that before the town votes for a potentially costly program there should be more discussion of employee benefits in general. Steve Pullen, a retired financial executive who worked on benefit programs, agreed that there should be further discussion. The Article was passed over, as was Article 20, related closely to it.

Article 21, requesting money to buy voting machines so Monterey can comply with the Federal "Help America Vote Act," was amended to remove the word "backup." There are still questions about how the town will have to comply with the Act by March 2006.

The town approved Article 24, to lease the Wilson-McLaughlin House to the Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation, for the fee of $1 per year for a period of five years, with an option to renew. The corporation's purpose is to restore and maintain the building for municipal uses in accordance with Edith L. Wilson's will. Discussion centered around the fact the previous committee ran up against the problem of asking the town to spend money to repair the house, and that it is now critical to rescue the house. The current committee has formed a nonprofit 50(c)(3) corporation to raise funds for that rescue and comply with the Town's vote in 1996 to accept Edith Wilson's conditions for municipal use. >

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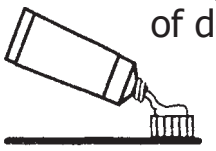

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Route 23 Monterey

Article 26, requesting the Governor to order the immediate return of all Massachuseetts National Guard units serving in Iraq and directing the members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation to forthwith initiate legislation in Congress to effect the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units and personnel now serving in Iraq., elicited a long discussion about whether it is appropriate to discuss this at the town level, and, even if it is, what this means to the morale of troops stationed in Iraq. Bonner McAllister, sponsor of the article, noted that similar resolutions have been approved by 50 towns in Vermont, and are included in the warrants of 45 towns in Massachusetts. A motion to pass over this article was defeated, and views on both sides of the issue were aired. The article carried by a large majority.

Carol Edelman spoke about the retirement of Anne Marie Makuc, who has been the Monterey Library Director since 1978 and served as a Library Trustee for forty years. Mrs. Makuc was commended and applauded by the Town Meeting, and, in her absence, her son, the meeting moderator, was given a bouquet to present to her.

The meeting ended at 12:57 p.m.

--Laurily K. Epstein

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Town Election Results

Seven races were contested in the May 7th Town election. The results of the contested races were as follows:

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Cynthia J. Weber (D) –163*
Richard Piepho (R) – 50

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Riccardo S. Boehm (R) – 108
Robert Lazzarini (D) – 112*

Finance Committee (3 years)
Maureen Haugh (D) – 139*
Kenneth "Bob" Heath – 76

Library Trustee (2 years)
Jane Black (D) – 114*
Carolee "Mickey" Jervas (R) – 97

Park Commission (3 years)
James V. Edelman (D) – 139*
Charles R. Mielke (R) – 78

Planning Board (2 years)
Gerry Shapiro – 90
Brian D. Puntin (D, R) 130*

Select Board (3 years)
Jonathan E. Sylbert (D) – 146*
Bruce P. Kelly (R) – 80

In the uncontested races the following were elected:

Board of Health (3 years): John Makuc

Cemetery Committee (3 years):
Thomas Haugh

Library Trustees (3 years, 2 seats):
Laurie Shaw and Linda Thorpe

Library Trustee (1 year): Lois Storch

Moderator (1 year): Mark Makuc

Planning Board (5 years, 2 seats):
Janet Cathcart and Cynthia Hoogs

Tree Warden (1 year): Roger Tryon

Only 233 of 659 eligible voters participated.

Planning Board Seeks New Member and a Secretary

The Monterey Planning Board gained three new members in the May election. We are happy to welcome Janet Cathcart, Cindy Hoogs, and Brian Puntin to the board, and are grateful for their interest and energy. The Planning Board also welcomes back current members Wayne Burkhart, Beth King, and Maggie Leonard. We are now supposed to be a seven-member board, and to fulfill that number the Planning Board is soliciting candidates to fill the seat recently vacated by Joyce Scheffey. If you are interested in becoming a member and serving on the Monterey Planning Board, please submit a written piece expressing your interest, and be willing to come in and talk to the board at one of our monthly meetings (second and fourth Thursday of every month).

Also, the Planning Board is seeking to hire a secretary to take minutes at the meetings, type and file the minutes, and do filing, posting, and other clerical duties associated with the board. The position will require approximately 8–10 hours per month. Applicants should have excellent grammar and communication skills and be competent typists. To apply please submit a resume and/or a letter of interest to the Monterey Planning Board.

—Maggie Leonard

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Bidwell House Opens Season with Blessing Ceremony

Rhythms of rural life in colonial Monterey and Tyringham will be celebrated by a ceremonial blessing of the house and lands at the Bidwell House on Saturday, June 11, at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is warmly invited to watch or to participate as Natalie Cain, SSJ, and women from the Women's House of Peace, based in northern Berkshire County, perform a simple ritual acknowledging the people who lived in the house and on the land from the time of its construction in 1750 to the present caretakers.

The Bidwell House was constructed on top of a massive stone foundation with archways. Rarely part of the house tour, Executive Director, Martha Dailey will accompany those able to negotiate the narrow stairs to the basement to see the stonework and supporting timbers with original bark. The foundation is a symbol of the strength and hard work of generations who were born and died here. The chimney supports several fireplaces in the home where the early settlers gathered by firelight—grateful always for food, fuel, and fire. Stories were told by each family and the Bible was worn down by fingerprints on often-turned pages. The house was the stable center of a busy life inside and on the land.

Inside, there were beds to be made, floors to wash, laundry to hang out, food to prepare, needlework to be done. A steaming kettle and a spinning wheel were sounds of the kitchen as children learned to stitch a sampler and an older child rocked the baby in a wooden cradle.

The Blessing Ceremonial will be a dream time … a time to imagine the sights and sounds of the house inside and the sounds of farm implements and animals outside on the extensive land which was a thoroughfare for people walking to the meeting house or traveling from Massachusetts to New York.

The nonprofit Women's House of Peace was founded by Natalie Cain in 1996; she is now Program Director for the group. Northern Berkshire women came together to design opportunities for women of all racial, religious, ethnic, and social backgrounds to create bonds of support and develop spiritual awareness. More information about the group's use of creativity and healing can be found on their web page: womenshouseofpeace.org or by calling Natalie Cain at 413-663-5832 or email at ssjpeace@earthlink.net

Also facilitating in the ritual will be the new Administrative Assistant at the Bidwell House Museum, Suzanne Gould of Sheffield. Suzanne recently moved to the area and has opened Shining Light Services which includes intuitive healing, astrological readings, space clearing, and energy attunement. She is an ordained minister and graduate of the Healing Mastery Program at Lily Dale, New York. Her services offer ways to empower and inspire toward attaining a higher potential.

Donations Sought for Bidwell House Benefit Tag Sale

The Bidwell House Museum is currently accepting, and welcoming, donations for its benefit tag sale to be held on Saturday, July 30, 9 a.m.– 2 p.m. Here's your chance to recycle your unwanted household goods while contributing to the community good (no clothing, shoes, or appliances please).

Call Kathryn Roberts 528-6188 or Barbara Tryon 528-0728.

Bidwell House Offers Docent Training

The Bidwell House Museum is offering docent training every Thursday morning in June at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch with the director and members of the staff. Volunteers will commit to a regular schedule to meet the public and introduce visitors to the collection. If you would like to interact with friendly, smart, enthusiastic people of varied backgrounds and lend a hand at preserving an experience in colonial history for people of all ages, please come to any of the docent training days. Docents will perform reception and touring tasks; opportunities are also available to lead trail walks and to explain the Heritage Vegetable Garden to visitors. Call ahead : 413-528-6888.

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A Tribute to Librarian Anne Marie Makuc

Some of my earliest memories are of going to the Monterey Library. Newman Abercrombie, then the librarian, had been in that position since before the current library was built in 1931. Mr. Abercrombie always picked out the books for me to read, and I never complained about his selection. I can still remember my mother asking me after I went down alone if I had been allowed to pick any out myself. By then she had been a Library Trustee for several years.

Anne Makuc started taking courses in Library Science and soon got her professional certification. She was elected trustee in 1965, and was hired as the Director in 1978. During her tenure, the library has changed so that Mr. Abercrombie would hardly recognize some of the services and the collection, and though he would recognize the building, he would certainly be thinking of how it used to be.

The first thing Anne did was to buy a book drop, making it easier to return books. The thousands of patrons who have taken out thousands of books since 1978 know that was just the beginning. Services have changed. When I asked for more books by a certain author, Mr. Abercrombie would see if the bookmobile happened to have anything on board when it visited. Now interlibrary loan requests are routinely sent on the Internet and dropped off by the Western Region's van every week. Along the way, patrons have read books from as far away as Portland, Oregon, and even once from the Library of Congress.

Mr. Abercrombie did not believe in putting the dust jacket in plastic covers, and you can still find books in the library that don't have covers. Books he purchased had handwritten cards. A typewriter made things much neater, and four cards for every book were typed, sorted, and filed, until the typewriter broke in the late 1980s. Monterey then became one of the first libraries in this part of the state to computerize. As with many things in Monterey, it wasn't easy. The very first time Follett Library Software was loaded into a new company's PC, there was a major conflict that had both the software and hardware companies scrambling for many weeks while the librarian, trustees, and townspeople waited for resolution. Gateway 2000 finally resolved the conflict, and Monterey could boast about being the first successful library operation using the two companies. Not long after, Monterey, with help from a state grant, connected to the Internet. Anne was able to do all the computerization over the years, including wiring, networking, new hardware and software, exclusively with state aid—the money has never come from Monterey's taxes.

There have been other grants over the years, including one for young people's nonfiction. Perhaps the most interesting was a local history grant. There was a large gap in town reports from the incorporation of Monterey until 1900. Some of the missing years were located in the State House and copies of those records can now be found in the library.

There have been numerous programs over the years. Lively book discussions, children's programs, and visiting authors have brought people to the library. For many years before videos became popular, there were 16mm feature length films in the basement on Saturday nights. There were also meetings in that basement of both Girl and Boy Scouts, 4-H groups, including the Lick'em, Stick'em stamp club, and even the Little League on rainy Saturday mornings. For a while the town offices were in the basement when the Kindergarten's second story was deemed unsafe and before the Grange became available.

The children in the kindergarten have marched down from the school to learn to turn the pages by the outside corner, and the school always borrows from the library's collection. Many children have participated in summer reading programs. For the last few years Anne has sent a board book to each Monterey newborn to welcome them into our community.

The nature of the library collection has also changed. Mr. Abercrombie might have recognized the record collection that Anne started, which became popular twenty-five years ago, but he certainly wouldn't have known about videotapes and books on tape, which presently together account for about a third of the circulation. In order to meet the state requirements to receive aid, which includes the bookmobile, ILL, actual financial aid, and other services, the library has had to use twenty percent of its budget on books. Monterey did that and in Anne's tenure probably bought as many books, if not more, than were in the library in 1978. Next time you are in the library know that every book with a cover was bought after Mr. Abercrombie retired.

There have been two major changes to the building. The first was the General Knox wing that houses the Historical Society. Anne was a cowriter of the grant application to the state that helped make it possible. Part of the grant included the library's first copy machine, which has

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since been replaced several times and proven very useful to townspeople. Edith Wilson, who designed the Knox addition, bequeathed enough money to build an office addition in the back. Both additions have proven very useful.

There have been many other changes, including insulating the roof, storm windows, energy efficient lighting, interior painting, carpet in the upstairs and the basement, blinds for the windows, a chimney cap to keep the birds and the weather out, and a security system that faithfully reported whenever the heat was out. There were heating system repairs, first a new oil burner and new tank inside the building, and finally a new furnace after fifty years. When Mt. Everett Regional High School was being renovated Anne went and claimed shelving, tables, and chairs for the basement. In the main library she added children's chairs and wing chairs, where more than one patron has fallen asleep. New furniture was necessary for the computers and new office. The basement now has a dehumidifier. The electric panel was updated from fuses to breakers. Mr. Abercrombie would recognize the set of dark oak furniture that came with the building and is still in use, but little else.

The changes weren't limited to the inside. There is a new sign near the road to match all the other town signs. The flagpole is now lit at night. There is a bench in the front of the building where you can sit and watch the village happenings. The retaining wall to the basement entrance has been rebuilt. There is a ramp for wheelchair access to the building. Every tree on the lawn has been planted since Anne became a trustee, including one in memory of her son Stephen, who died as an infant. Many years ago, when there was a parking problem in the center of town, the manager of the store tried to have Anne's car towed, only to have the police chief show up and point out that her car was actually parked on the town owned roadway. The concrete driveway was opened up and paved, and though there have been plans to make more parking area on the lawn, Anne fought to keep cars off the nicest lawn in the center of town. Over the years there have been many bake sales, benefits, plant swaps, and most importantly, the annual book sale.

All these things weren't all her ideas, nor did she herself do all of them. Many people, too numerous to list, donated time, money, and energy to make the library what it is today. The elected Trustees helped in many ways. The Town of Monterey has always generously supported its library whenever finances came up at Town Meeting, but many of the improvements were paid for by volunteer time, generous private donations, and state grants. There is hardly a place in or out of the building that Anne has not had something to do with. During her tenure as Director the library has moved to the future and been a presence in the community. I, and many other people in town, feel a sense of pride in having a library that in many ways went from 1931 to 2005 in less than forty years. Thank you, Mom!

Anne's last official day at the library is Tuesday, May 31. A wine and cheese reception in her honor will be held at the General Store on Wednesday, June 8, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

—Mark Makuc

Mark Makuc Selected as Library Director

The Library Trustees have hired Mark Makuc as Monterey Library Director, effective June 1, to replace retiring director Anne Marie Makuc. Mark has been working in the library since 1978, most recently as assistant librarian, and is intimately familiar with the Monterey Library. Over the years he has played a large part in collection selection and developing the computer system, and the Trustees are pleased that he is becoming the new director.

Mark and the Trustees encourage all townspeople to visit the library and take advantage of this valuable town resource. If you are looking for a book, video, audio book, a selection of current magazines, or just a quiet place to sit and read, this is the place to come.

Library Assistant Sought

The Monterey Library is seeking an assistant to the librarian. The assistant must be comfortable working with people and computers. The position will require a minimum of 2 to 4 hours a week. The schedule is flexible, though it will be during the library's open hours, and availability on some Saturdays is a must. The pay scale is $12 to $14 per hour, depending on experience. A resume and two work references are required. The deadline for applications is June 15, 2005. Please apply in person during library hours or mail to Monterey Library, PO Box 172, Monterey, MA 01245

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5th Annual "Who the Heck Are the Friends of Lake Garfield and Why Should I Give a Hoot?" Quiz.

1. The Lake Garfield Association (LGA) changed its name to the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) because …

A. Our ink cartridges will last longer because the new name has two fewer letters.

B. We found a whole batch of cheap letterhead with that very name on ebay.

C. If you Google "LGA" you get La Guardia Airport.

D. The new name better represents our mission.

E. We're now in the Witness Protection Program. (Hint: It couldn't be this answer because, if we were, we sure wouldn't tell everyone. Right?)

2. The mission of the Friends of Lake Garfield is:

A. To change its name every few years.

B. To encourage fish to do more with their lives.

C. To protect and preserve Lake Garfield for the Monterey community and to promote the health of the lake for swimming, boating, fishing, and scenic beauty. (If that seems like a worthy cause to you—and heaven knows, it should—why not join our ranks. Either visit our website at www.lakegarfield.org or call 413-528-8217.)

D. To show our in-laws that we can be friendly … if we want to.

E. Equals MC squared.

3. To become a member of the Friends of Lake Garfield, you must …

A. Be comfortable having a lake as a friend. (They never call.)

B. Have $25 for membership dues.

C. Care a whole bunch about Lake Garfield.

D. Wait for a full moon, spin around 3 times with your eyes closed, and say Supercalifragilistisexpialidocius.

E. Adopt a Vegan diet.

F. All of the above, except D & E.

Eleanor Kimberley

Canada geese searching Lake Garfield for answers to quiz.

4 – LakeFest is . . .

A. A bicentenary street fair held at Hollywood & Vine to celebrate the career of a one-eyed blond named Veronica. (Hint: Harriet made up this answer. Don't choose it.)

B. The first meal that fish have in the morning.

C. For "cookie" and that's good enough for me!

D. The glorious, gala, summer celebration at the town beach for the whole town of Monterey, with events, crafts, games, boat rides, potluck dinner, music, dancing, and free FUN for all.

E. More properly pronounced "Lochkfescht," a traditional ethnic delicacy made with potatoes, cabbage, and chicken fat.

5. Important LGA dates to stick on your fridge this summer are:

A. August 13, Birthday of Don Ho, Hawaiian ukulele player (Tiny Bubbles).

B. LGA meetings at 9:30 a.m. at the Firehouse on 6/25, 7/23, & 8/27 and LakeFest on Saturday, August 13, with rain date (Heaven forbid!) of the 14th.

C. July 5, which is the day we convinced the fish is to be Free Worms-on-a-Hook Day. (Talk about gillable.)

D. August 15, the date in 1960 when French Congo became simply Congo. (Don't even think about going there for patisserie any more.)

E. July 16, annual "Reorganize Your Sock Drawer" day.

Answers: 1D, 2C, 3F, 4D, 5B.

(*If you scored under 50%, you got less than half the answers correct*)

—Once again, you can blame Harriet Harvey & Hy Rosen for this quiz.

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Passing a Loosestrife Article: What It Means

On May 7, at the Annual Town Meeting, Article 16, for $500.00 for continuation of the Brewer Pond Loosestrife Project, was passed. The town's voters should congratulate themselves for passing the article for several reasons.

First, for investing in the future of Monterey's small and diverse natural treasure, Brewer Pond. A look at the Housatonic River north of Great Barrington, behind the train station in Housatonic shows an impenetrable stand of loosestrife invading the shallow part of the river. Literature available on the USGS website describes a body of water in upstate New York that went from a having a few loosestrife plants to being a virtual monoculture (90% coverage) within thirteen years by crowding out the natural diversity. The description includes the loosestrife growing in water to a depth of eighteen inches. Such a growth situation, unchecked in our town pond, would almost delete the word "Pond" from our site. Brewer Pond is the first line of defense: characteristically the growth of loosestrife begins near the outflow and then marches up the shores of the entire large body of water, in this case, Lake Garfield.

Second, congratulations for being dollar-wise. This project, a three-way partnership approved by the Town of Monterey, is under the management of Massachusetts Wetland Restoration Program, part of the Coastal Zone Management program, which provides the framework and the supervisory expertise and obtains the necessary USDA permits for biocontrol . It also includes the Friends of Lake Garfield to do the work of implanting and monitoring, following strict protocols at the sites at town-owned Brewer Pond. The forward looking town of Monterey, its citizens, and the Commonwealth form a partnership that gets the best purchasing deal possible. The biocontrol agent, the Gallerucella beetles that are the natural control agent in Europe, the loosestrife's natural home, usually cost $ .75 to $1.00 apiece. Through the DEP, Monterey can purchase 5,000 Gallerucella beetles for $500.00, or 10 cents per creature.

The first shipment arrived in June of last year, healthy and ready to grow and work on loosestrife. In late summer we saw the first evidence of their work, loosestrife that had its leaves munched into lacy patterns, limiting growth. Dollars saved over private sale: up to $4,500 for the creatures alone, let alone the legal paperwork for permits.

The third reason the town voters can congratulate themselves is more intangible. They care. Folks make individual and group efforts to keep Monterey's natural environment diverse and generally avoid the domination of the opportunistic by keeping checks and balances, be they plant or animal. If the final green survivors in a lake's life are algae and loosestrife, like their biological equivalent the pigeon, the rat, and the cockroach in Manhattan, then we lose the soul and wonder of our environment. It's that sense of awe and the ability to celebrate when we see, as one town resident did recently, a moose munching among the cattails on the lakeshore.

—Patricia Edelstein, Ecology Team, FLG

McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships Awarded

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund has given its 2005 scholarship awards to eleven students from Monterey, totaling $40,500.

A committee of Monterey residents, overseen by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which houses the Fund, reviewed applications and awarded scholarships based on: academic achievement, community service, the desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

First time scholarships for fall enrollment were awarded to:

Nicole Campanale, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston;

Tarsi Dunlop, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont;

Bridget Mendel, Northwestern University, Chicago;

Chris Tryon, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston.

Scholarships for continuing studies were awarded to:

Maggie Clawson, Hampshire College, Amherst;

Kimberly Gero, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth;

Deirdre Higgins, University of Massachusetts, Amherst;

Oriana Raab, St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, Bay Shore, New York;

Travis Raab, Hampshire College, Amherst;

Christina Temenos, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada;

Christina Vallianos, University of California, Berkley.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund was created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her long-time friend Marjorie McLaughlin. Ms. Wilson, a painter, sculptor and designer, moved to Monterey in 1942. The scholarship was created as a resource to support Monterey's young people as they pursue a college education. Graduating seniors and currently enrolled full-time college students are eligible to apply for funding.

In 1995, Edith Wilson said, "Monterey is a spirited village where intelligent children grow. Miss Marjorie McLaughlin and I have enjoyed their progress over the past half-century. It is now my privilege to give the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund to aid Monterey's young adults in their future education. Good life and good luck!"

The next application deadline is May 1, 2006. Applications are available at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grants-scholarships.html or by calling 413-528-8039.

Applicants Sought for Monterey Town Secretary

The Town of Monterey is seeking a full-time Town Secretary to work at the Town Offices. Candidates should have excellent computer skills, a good command of English grammar and letter writing, organizational and communication skills, and be able to work with minimal supervision. Submit resume to Monterey Select Board, POB 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

Monterey Land Trust Protests Sale of State Land

The Monterey Preservation Land Trust voted to sign a petition protesting the extension of OS548, a sneaky legislative maneuver that allows the state to sell surplus land on a "fast track," without community involvement. The vote, taken at a board meeting on April 25, added Monterey's voice to those of a number of land preservation and conservation organizations throughout the state, all hoping that OS548 will "sunset."

There are both procedural and substantive objections to OS548. First is doubt about the nature of outside sections as a legislative genre. Second, opponents object strenuously to the diminution of community involvement in the disposition of state property.

"OS," shorthand for "outside section," is an attachment to the massive budget bill. Its use is problematic because its contents are not part of the budget even though they are included in it. An outside section does not go through the review process typically required of substantive, non-budgetary legislation, and thus its content becomes law "under the radar." Not only are outside sections exempt from public hearing, but with no votes recorded, the legislative process is rendered opaque instead of transparent.

According to various news articles, more than half of the legislation passed in Massachusetts in recent years has been accomplished through outside sections. This year, though, the State House offered a budget with no outside sections. It remains to be seen if the Senate will follow their lead.

Twenty-seven percent of Monterey's land is state-owned, so how OS548 affects the disposition of surplus state land is of more than cursory interest for Monterey-ans. According to Rep. Stephen Kulik, a legislative activist on land conservation, most of the state-owned land in Monterey is state forest, and thus not likely to be disposed of by OS548. A news report in late March reported that open space and parkland are not among the 2,200 acres of state-owned surplus land. Instead, surplus land usually has structures already on it. Think vacant hospitals or storage depots.

Nonetheless, last year a situation in Williamsburg (represented by Kulik and Sen. Andrea Nuciforo) illustrates what's wrong with the current process. For over a century, the state had owned a 26-acre forested piece of land in Williamsburg situated between two properties owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, forming an important link in a several-hundred-acre wildlife corridor. Last summer the Department of Capital Assets and Management (DCAM) declared the 26-acre parcel to be surplus and went through the auction process. Both Kulik and Nuciforo fought back, but the land was sold to a developer.

Tad Ames, president of the venerable Berkshire Natural Resources Council, emphasizes how important it is for towns to have a chance to decide for themselves if they need the surplus land. "Often the land may not be critical for conservation purposes, but there may be other important purposes. For the state to sell the land to the highest bidder without any local notice seems imperious," he says.

Luckily, Monterey's representatives in Boston understand the importance of land preservation. Andrew Schuyler, chief of staff for Sen. Andrea Nuciforo, says, "Senator Nuciforo strongly supports local involvement during the state disposition process because there are many times when local communities may want control over the land or may want to partner with a land conservation organization who can help implement long-term preservation options."

Sen. Nuciforo is the cosponsor of a bill introduced on May 10 by Rep. James Eldridge and Sen. Pamela Resor that returns to local communities the right of first refusal on state-owned land. The bill would also create a surplus land coordination committee that would allow more community input than DCAM currently allows.

—Laurily K. Epstein

P.S. The Williamsburg auction did have a happy ending. The developer defaulted, and the conservation-minded Audubon Society bought it and now has a year to raise the needed funds.

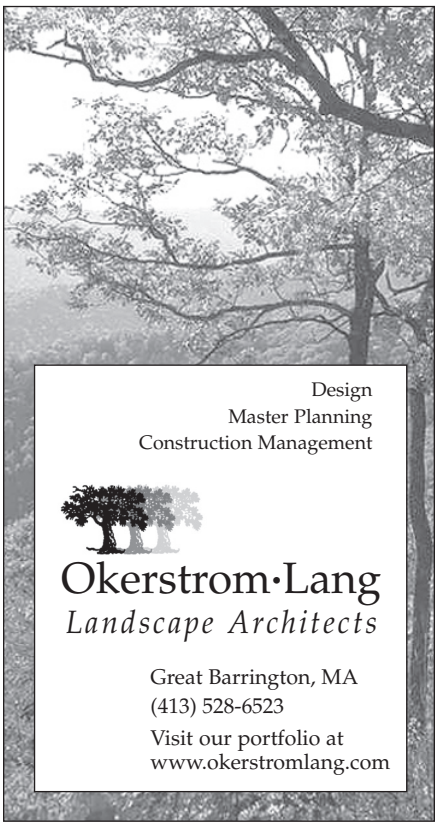
June 8 Reception to Honor Librarian Anne Makuc

The Monterey Library Trustees are hosting a wine and cheese reception at the Monterey General Store on Wednesday, June 8, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. to honor retiring Library Director Anne Marie Makuc for her years of service to the town, 27 years as Library Director and forty years as a Library Trustee. Everyone is invited.

Tarsi Dunlop Wins Poetry Award

Tarsi Dunlop, a graduating senior at Berkshire Country Day School, has been awarded a Citation of Merit for Poetry in the Eighth Annual Edith Wharton Writing Contest. She was honored for her series of four poems in a May 24th ceremony at the Stable Theater at The Mount in Lenox.

Tarsi is the daughter of Susan Sellew of Rawson Brook Farm and Wayne Dunlop. Her winning poems will be published in a special issue of the *Berkshire Eagle* in the summer or fall, but they can be read here first; see the facing page.



Dedicated Protector

Dried cut blades stick between my toes
As I cross the trimmed green lawn.

Mother is hoeing, a shape shifting
In her greenhouse, her pride and joy.

I reach the edge of the yard; grass
Stops at glass, I open the door.

The green bodies of once juicy
Hornworms lie strewn like soldiers.

She's hoeing, determined.
I walk to her; she pauses, looking up.

"What do you think?" Her voice is satisfied.
"It's hot in here." She wipes her forehead.

I ignore the dead bodies and fix on her,
Endless source of energy, the sun.

I nod my head giving silent approval.
She hands me a bag of salad greens.

Before I leave, I pause to watch her
Strike the earth with measured calm.

Her dedication to order, to the little
Rows of greenery, strikes a chord in me.

—Tarsi Dunlop

My Old Man

I watch you, old man,
Grey and belly growing.

You've been here, all my life;
I've loved you, every single day.

When you laugh so hard that you
Can't breathe, I can't help but smile.

We have a connection, you and I,
Like night and day, we blend.

I watch you, old man,
Grey and belly growing.

I don't understand you,
Your skills to charm, your power games

I listen as you dispute how long is long
While I have waited endlessly.

Your flaws lie in timing,
Your shifts in blame

Your reassuring, suffocating love,
Your relentless need to justify.

Grey old man and belly growing,
I am a part of you.

—Tarsi Dunlop

The Night

When you see the sky at night,
There is such a brilliant light.
All the shining, twinkling stars
Make us dance with joy.

—Ana Boyd

Sharing the '04 Potatoes

Potatoes grow well in our sandy soil. We have been raising a crop for our family use here for 30 years, usually keeping three varieties going year after year: Kennebecs for baking, Carolas for boiling, and Red Norlands for summer new potatoes (like candy). Growing potatoes is easy and fun. Put one in the ground, come back later and take about twelve out. Trundle them down to the root cellar and eat all winter, into the spring. They'll start to sprout in April, and by May you are planting them again. But the ones you don't plant can still be eaten if you just knock off the sprouts.

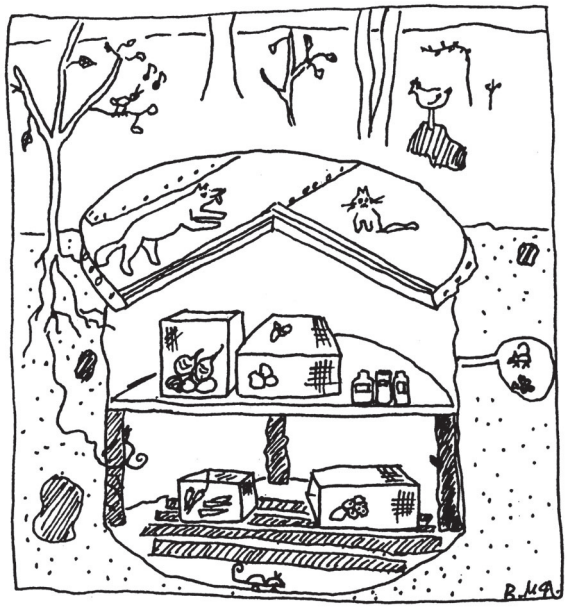
Harvesting potatoes is the most fun of all, kind of like an underground Easter-egg hunt. The pale varieties (Kennebecs and Carolas) are pretty easy to spot in the dark earth, but one year we tried out a purple-skinned variety and had a hard time telling them from our local potato-sized rocks.

For years we planted under a blanket of mulch. We didn't even have to dig much, just poke around in the straw and find the potatoes. We almost didn't even have to wash the mulched potatoes, they were so clean.

After a few years, though, our garden was discovered by mice, and the mulched potato patch became their home and restaurant combined. The potato-eating mice were actually voles, or what we used to call "meadow mice." These little rodents look like a miniature muskrat or maybe a micro-beaver with a short skinny tail. They are very different from the mice that share our house with us, the deer mice, which have long pointy noses, long tails, and pure white bellies.

To make our potato patch a little less inviting, we quit with the mulch. Now we had to dig holes or ditches for planting, keep up with the hoeing, and hope for plenty of rain. But at least the mice moved out. We got a nice crop of intact potatoes and packed them away in the root cellar.

It wasn't long before the mice discovered the root cellar, which is really just a good-sized hole in the ground with an insulated cover. So we built boxes of hardware cloth and put the potatoes inside. There is a hinged lid so we can get the potatoes out. Sometimes it is more than we can manage to remember to close this lid.



This was the case recently. Somehow I left the lid open on one of the potato cages. A week or so later when I came back for more, the first thing I noticed was bright, fresh nibblings. Then I saw a ball of fluffy nest material. When I bothered it a little, an adult mouse scurried out and I saw that there were babies, eyes still closed.

What to do? I felt these were my mice (raised on my potatoes) and my responsibility. I did not feel I could now close the lid—the mother would not be able to get back in and the babies would starve right there in my pile of bakers.

The truth is, '04 was a fine year for potatoes. There was lots of compost and lots of rain, Even with taking out what I need for planting there is no way we'll get them all eaten up before the '05s come in. We can afford to be generous—but up to what point?

I know the meadow mouse eats her weight in food every 24 hours. Her babies will be pregnant themselves by the time they are 4 weeks old! And she herself can give birth to 17 litters a year. At 5 to 9 babies per litter, the math is staggering, and suddenly my famous potato surplus looks as if it might not be quite so adequate. Once the root cellar potatoes are gone, these little nibblers only have to scamper about 50 feet to get to the garden. And what about the coming winter? Will I be able to grow enough potatoes to feed the exponential grandchildren? Or am I condemning the as-yet unborn babies to a miserable fate in the dark of the year?

I have vague fantasies of transporting the whole family pretty soon. But how?

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(And where?) At this point I could scoop up the nestful of babies, but I would have to trap the mother—very traumatic—in order to move her with them. I can't in good conscience take them to someone else's potato field, but what remote bit of state forest or natural open ground will support my mice? We know there will be weasels there, and owls. This being the inevitable end of the story for so many meadow mice, why don't I step in terminally right now and prevent a lot of future starvation and slaughter?

Because, although I have referred to them familiarly as "my mice," they really are not mine and for that reason I don't feel right about bumping them off. They came to me (well—to my potatoes), I did not choose them. They were thrust upon me. This is temporary and unlooked for but I must do my moral best. Perhaps my cat will find her way into the math—it is not for me to say. Or maybe it IS. I could manipulate the cat, transport her, bump HER off, put her in the root cellar. I can, in short, do whatever I like. The ball is in my court, and all because I am hooked on potatoes. To find my way through this existential dilemma I am afraid I will have to begin at the beginning and examine my relationship with potatoes. Already the '05 crop is in the ground and my complicated net is cast. There is no such thing as a simple meal.

—Bonner J. McAllester

Friends Meeting to Host Presentation on Darfur

South Berkshire Friends Meeting will sponsor a presentation and discussion on the continuing crisis in Darfur on Wednesday, June 8, 7–9 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, 280 State Road, Great Barrington.

David Morse, a Quaker human rights activist from Storrs, Connecticut, will speak to the public, lead a discussion, and answer questions. This is an opportunity to learn more about the current situation in Sudan and what Americans can do to help. Mr. Morse will talk about the Darfur Accountability Act currently under consideration in congress, also about his plan to take part in an interfaith delegation to travel to Darfur as witnesses who can return to the United States to report to their home communities.

This event is open to all. Anyone wishing to prepare for this event can visit SaveDarfur.org for background and weekly updates.

The Friends Meetinghouse is in Great Barrington on Route 23 (State Rd.) east of Belcher Square, two doors east of the Hevreh building on the same (south) side of the road.

For more information, call Bonner McAllester at 413-528-9385.

Green Corner
Where Does the Water Go?

The Earth is a watery place—about 70% is covered by ocean. In fact, 98% of the water on Earth is salt water. The remaining 2% is fresh water, but the majority of that is tied up in polar icecaps and glaciers. This leaves us less than 0.4% as available fresh water.

Because water is perhaps our most valuable resource, we should use it wisely and protect it well. The first law of conservation and matter can help to put things in perspective. This law states that matter cannot be created nor destroyed. In other words, the Earth has a given amount of fresh water available for life and there is no more than that.

Water evaporates from the ocean and eventually falls as precipitation. Finally it flows back to the ocean via rivers, completing its cycle. Both municipal and well water used here in the northeast are from aquifers and reservoirs. Those sources are replenished as snow and rain soak into the ground. This is where human activity affects the water cycle. Paved or compacted surfaces, such as rooftops, parking lots, and lawns cause precipitation to flow back to the ocean faster, leaving less water available to recharge our ground water supplies. When we use water faster than it can be replenished, supplies dwindle and become compromised. Finally, global warming has changed precipitation patterns so that recharge is not as efficient.

No matter how we use this resource, there will always be the same amount, but it will spend more time in places inaccessible to humans, like the ocean and the sky. So please—use water wisely. Learn more about watering, mulching, and native plants that need less water. Do not let the water run when not in use, and fix leaky faucets. Please call if you'd like to talk about it. You can find us at CET, 413-445-4556, ext 17.

—Raya Ariella

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Adonijah the Younger & the Old Apple Tree

Once again, it is apple blossom time at the Bidwell House, at the very end of Art School Road. In an ancient overgrown clearing up above the back of the house, an easy walk past the split rail fence that encompasses the annual re-creation of a colonial vegetable garden, stands the hulk of a venerable Rhode Island Greening apple tree, perhaps the oldest in this part of the forest. There is a scientific way to determine the estimated age of such a tree, a process called ring boring. A short crosssection is bored out, then the rings counted, and the hole carefully sealed up. The number of rings counted for the section taken are then prorated for the actual width and girth of the tree.

James Wilson Kelly, a professional forester and orchard design specialist living in Sheffield, and a good friend of the Bidwell House who annually gives cider pressing demonstrations there, consented to make a special trip to help ascertain the historical significance of such an old planting. The age of this old tree dates back to the colonial times of Adonijah the Younger, the oldest son of our first minister. From earliest times, apples filled a number of culinary purposes, including baking apples, sauce apples, dessert apples, and cider apples. John Adams, our second president, was known to drink a gill of hard cider every morning with his breakfast. Perhaps his saying for so doing was "A gill a day keeps the doctor away."

The history of apple trees could not be complete without mention of John Chapman, as related in the book, *Johnny Appleseed, Man and Myth,* by Robert Price, published by Indiana University Press. Chapman grew up in Long Meadow, Massachusetts, near Springfield, before setting out west through Pennsylvania and Ohio, carrying seeds collected from cider mills. He was known to have propogated apple trees all along the Indian frontier. He would actually precede the settlers, cut a clearing in the forest, surrounding it with a brush fence, and planting his trees. But he was a good businessman and would come back a few years later, dig up the saplings, and sell them to the farmers who had begun to till the land.

In the book there is a picture of a living tree he planted in Ohio called a Rambo apple, used for desserts. It is also a hulk like the Bidwell tree, but today there is no record of any living trees he may have planted in the Berkshires. He did not believe in grafting, which precludes almost any chance of surviving stock here. His reluctance to graft may have been because he was very religious, perhaps a creationist, believing that the best trees are those created by God and not tampered with by artificial evolution.

As described in *America's Famous and Historic Trees* by Jeffrey G. Meyer, published by Houghton Mifflin, many trees still living today tie us to our history as a nation—the George Washington Tulip Poplar, the Patrick Henry Osage Orange, the Lewis and Clark Cottonwood, the Johnny Appleseed Rambo Apple Tree, and The Gettysburg Address Honey Locust, just for starters. A good soil, sunlit clearing, plenty of root space, and a few generations of Independence have all helped to honor the species and further their growth. Today we are still connected to trees from the time when on the Concord Green, in the immortal words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard round the world."

On this Memorial Day, we can honor those who have paid a price for our freedoms, but must remember that with every freedom comes a responsibility. Standing under the honey locust, Abraham Lincoln expressed it so well: by our words and deeds we must be sure that those who gave their lives "shall not have died in vain." And as our favorite trees greet the growing season ahead, far across the sea, where Americans died to fight oppression, "In Flanders Field the poppies blow between the crosses, row by row." The battle against oppressors and tyrants may never end, but on this day lets honor the liberators. The Bidwell House is now open for the season, and up behind the museum is a historical apple tree that will bear the fruit of its heritage and is a living symbol of God's blessings, on this day of all days.

—George Emmons

Martha Dailey to Speak at Monterey Historical Scoiety

The Monterey Historical Society will meet on Friday, June 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the General Knox Museum wing of the Monterey Library. The speaker will be the new director of The Bidwell House Museum, Dr. Martha LaCroix Dailey. The topic for the evening will be "The Iroquois Confederation: The Enemy Across the River and The Great Peace." Dailey taught a course in Native American Studies for 15 years at Mt. Greylock Regional High School and at Southern Vermont College. She has visited 39 reservations across the United States and lived for one semester at the Navajo Nation's capital at Window Rock, Arizona, with her family. The public is invited.

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The 1995 Tornado and the Great Blue Heron

Monday, Memorial Day, 1995, dawned damp and wet and humid. The weather forecast called for the possibility of hail and damaging winds in the afternoon. Very unstable air to our west, over New York State, was moving our way.

I drove to Gould Farm that afternoon early, and began tilling in the gardens, preparing the soil for planting the bush beans. The sun came out and the air became oppressive. Then clouds gradually dimmed the sun. I turned off the tiller at one point to listen for thunder, which would serve as a warning to head up the hill for Main House. I heard a clap of thunder, looked up right above my head, and there flew on a beeline, west to east, a great blue heron, determined in its flight, now in retrospect I know, to seek safety toward the east.

Soon the clouds were hanging, dark, from the sky and moving speedily from southwest to northeast. Darker and darker it became, and more ominous was the feeling. I went up the hill to Main House, ate a little, the lights went out, and Wayne Burkhart and I went downstairs to start the generator. Before long everyone was filing into the basement. Tornado warning! I ran up the stairs to see branches and debris flying about.

After the storm passed, we rode down the hill toward the gardens, to find the landscape changed. The ridge to the east was now visible; the trees had been pushed over or snapped off. The fence and sheep barn were strewn over the garden. The tiller lay on its side. Fireflies flickered. All was calm. I wondered where the heron had landed to rest.

— Robert Rausch

Rare Coin Found

An 1827 large copper one-cent piece was recently discovered at Gould Farm by Peter Wyers. Mr. Wyers was pursuing his lifelong hobby of metal detecting when he discovered the coin buried about six inches deep in the soil. He researched in a manual and learned that about two million had been produced. How did one of them end up at Gould Farm?

Mr. Wyers is using a modern state-of-the-art metal detector to scan the ground at Gould Farm. He also found a 1913 United States penny, which he is donating to Gould Farm because it is the same year the farm was founded by Will Gould. In all, he has found about twenty dollars of change.

Mr. Wyers said that modern metal detectors have computers that are very discriminating and can identify coins, jewelry, etc. He enjoys this hobby because "he is delving into the past and hopes to find something of value." The 1827 one-cent piece, complete with thirteen stars for the original colonies, is believed to be worth $300.00.

—Claudette Callahan

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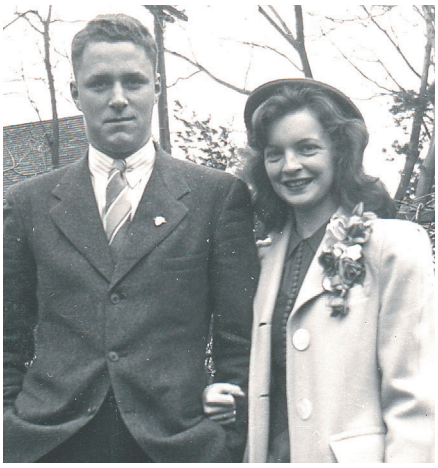

Dean and Fran, 1945 and sixty years later (photos courtesy Amidon family)

Dean Paul Amidon married Frances (Franny) Robertson on June 18, 1945. At first they lived with Fran's parents in Worcester, in the same house with Fran's brother David and his wife, and Fran's sister Mim and her husband; what a household! Franny's brother David (Army) and Dean and Fran's brother-in-law Len (both Navy) had all just returned from service in World War Two, and Len and Dean were both attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Firstborn Skippy arrived in 1946, while they were living in the Worcester house. (Skippy's career in aircraft maintenance started in his four years in the Air Force. Recently he has started his own company, Amidon Aircraft Solutions; check out at www.hangarbums.com. Skippy and his wife, Blakely Ann, live in Louisiana and have four adult children, Shannon, Clayton, Wyatt, and Stuart, and one grandchild, Wyatt's Anna Claire.) Peter was born in Worcester in 1949 during Dean's final exams at Worcester Tech. (Peter and his wife, Mary Alice, live in Vermont and have two adult children, Sam and Stefan. Peter is a free-lance musician/educator. Check out www.amidonmusic.com.)

In spite of the disruption, Dean passed his finals, got his engineering degree and moved the family to Lenox, where Dean started a long and distinguished career working for the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. After a couple of years, the family moved again into a little house by a brook right on Route 23 in Great Barrington, and Dean and Fran started their long association with the Great Barrington First Congregational Church. Phillip came along in 1952. (Phillip, retired from his career flying A-10s in the Air Force, is a pilot for Southwest Airlines. He lives in Arizona with his wife, Jami, and her three children, Ashley, Seth, and Franz. He has two adult children from his previous marriage to Teena: Ryan and Ben.)

In 1954 Dean and Fran bought and moved into a new house that had just been built by Art Hebert on Sandisfield Road in Monterey. Jay was their special Christmas gift, arriving in December of 1955, the baby of the family. (Jay is a musician, housepainter, and athlete extraordinaire. He and his wife, Faye, live in Otis with their daughter, Nicole; Faye has an adult son, Lucas, living in Gt. Barrington.)

Dean and Fran quickly got absorbed into just about every aspect of life in Monterey: Fran held preschool, and a few years later Cub Scouts in her own basement. Fran and Dean helped start and Dean coached the Monterey Little League team. Dean was a very funny and convincing Santa Claus for several years at the annual Monterey Community Christmas Pagaent held in the Monterey Church. The Amidons were instrumental in starting many years of summer Sunday afternoon softball games, sometimes between marrieds and singles, and sometimes between the summer folk and the year-rounders. They would play an endless number of innings until it was simply too dark to see the ball.

Fran got her Red Cross certification and taught swimming classes on Lake Garfield, teaching almost all of Monterey how to swim. Her barbering of her own boys quickly expanded into barbering just about the whole town of children in the Amidon kitchen. She was a Monterey Park Comissioner for a number of years and did a terrific job as the secretary of Great Barrington's First Congregational Church. For a few years, Fran was a valued member (singing bass) in the local Sweet Adelines. She raised a lot of money for cancer prevention through her daffodil sales.

Dean was a volunteer fireman, an early member of the Monterey Planning Commission, and the official Monterey singing leader at neighbor and community gatherings. All of the Amidons remember going to Bea and Shell's dairy farm for wonderful annual summer all-day picnics, hayrides, jumping in the hay in the barn, softball games, cookouts, and evening campfire sing-alongs led by Dean: "Oh you can't go to heaven … *Oh you can't go to heaven* … In Shel's old truck … *In Shel's old truck*."

Dean spent most of his career in the Lenox office of the Department of Public Works, eventually heading up the whole District One Department as District Highway Engineer. Dean and Fran moved to Boston for a few years when Dean was the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Works. Dean was honored at his DPW retirement banquet in 1985.

Still living in the same Monterey house fifty years later, Dean and Fran are still very involved in greater Monterey life and politics. They are respected elders in the Great Barrington Congregational Church and continue to serve on various boards and committees in Monterey and Great Barrington (Dean is on the Fairview Hospital Medical Ethics Committee). They can be found boating or swimming at their Lake Garfield cottage in the summer, skiing at Butternut Basin in the winter, enjoying their children's and grandchildren's frequent visits to Monterey, and walking, walking, walking, often to that remarkable and relatively new institution, the Monterey Coffee Club. At last count, Dean and Fran are the proud parents, grandparents and great grandparents to twenty-seven children, spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, with more on the way.

—Peter Amidon

Here in the Berkshires

My husband Alan and I have traveled abroad a lot this past year, but find that being home here in the Berkshires is just as exciting, and certainly warranting of a tale or two!

It's spring, the most exciting season of all. Restaurants are still empty, and if you need to do an errand, there are plenty of available town parking spaces. You can walk into a movie at the last minute and get a good seat. All will change shortly, and we'll find ourselves sticking a little closer to home as the summer descends upon us.

For now, we are happily enjoying all that this season has to offer. Gould Farm, our next-door neighbor, has about sixty new little piglets, and several calves. Rawson Brook Farm, out our driveway in the other direction, and which supplies us with delicious Monterey Chevre, featured a whole new crew of baby goats. I think the llama farm down the road has two new babies, in addition to their four adults. All appear to have been sheared for the summer, and look hysterical with their long skinny necks.

Some of the choices from the Salamons' driveway: Gould Farm piglets and Rawson Brook kids (Photos Glynis Oliver)

Aside from the farm animals, we enjoy quite a lot of wildlife right on our property. For ages we've had the same herd of five deer in our meadow every evening as the sun sets, but this spring they are down to four. I guess sadly one didn't make it through the hunting season. The turkeys flock was twenty to thirty strong in the fall, but this time of year they appear singly or in pairs. The new babies will be here any minute. Last year we had a family of twelve almost the whole summer.

We thought we had been forgotten by the Canadian geese, but they, too, have finally returned, and although pretty and pastoral to look at, I'm not a big fan. They hang out on the dock at the pond and on our grandchildren's little adjacent play area, soiling as they go! I honk the horn every time I pull in or out of our driveway, and they leave for the moment, only to return shortly thereafter. They drive our dog Willie insane, as well, but he has also had no success in keeping them away.

The biggest problem we have currently is porcupine mating season. They come out at night, looking for a hot date, and all they find is poor Willie. He's been "quilled" four times and needed surgery after two episodes: one to remove quills embedded in his nose and another to remove them from his throat! Of course, he's no longer allowed out at night off the leash, and we've enlisted Dale Duryea and his traps to assist in a critter removal program. Maybe he'll also handle the long milk snakes living in our stonewall.

The other morning we set our own new record for weird events. I was at work on the computer upstairs, and Alan was downstairs. We both heard a thunderous crash and then glass breaking loudly, an extremely frightening moment. Willie was outside, and a large tom turkey walked in front of the shed. Being a territorial puppy, Willie took off right after him. The turkey flew away, and in blind flight, crashed into the bathroom window upstairs, shattering the glass inside and out, before landing in the garden down below dying of a broken neck.

My friend Susan said this beats the bat flying around inside of the house last summer! I think it also tops the bears, the coyotes howling and drinking in the pond, and even the mountain lion sighting in our meadow. Life here in Monterey is quieter and more peaceful than it was when we were "city folk," but it certainly is never dull or uninteresting.

—Jane Salamon

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Gould Farm Installs Solar Panels on Harvest Barn

New solar panels using semiconductor technology to convert sunlight into pollution-free electricity were recently installed on Gould Farm's Harvest Barn roof. The 7-kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system is made up of 63 solar modules manufactured by Evergreen Solar of Marlborough, Mass. These modules are expected to remain functional for 30 years. Every year they will generate the amount of electricity used by two energy efficient New England households.

The Harvest Barn is an ideal site for the solar panels. Visitors will be able to see the panels and become more aware of how solar energy works. The system's educational value will be evidenced by data monitoring equipment that records and displays the energy produced.

Catherine A. Tower, Gould Farm's Executive Director, said, "The installation of photovoltaic panels at Gould Farm is another example of our commitment to environmentally friendly practices. With the same care and respect we offer each individual that comes to the Farm, we strive to demonstrate how we treat the land and life on the Farm."

Discussions about solar energy at the Farm began as part of the Center for Ecological Technology's (CET) project with the Sustainable Education and Research program of the USDA to encourage farms to increase energy efficiency and explore appropriate uses for renewable energy technologies. CET coordinated the installation through an incentive program funded by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) Renewable Energy Trust. The U.S. Department of Energy contributed grant support. Conservation Services Group (CSG) of Westborough, Mass., is the designer and contractor.

Also supporting the installation are the customers of New England GreenStart, a green power offering provided by CET and Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance. GreenStart encourages the development of clean energy projects by customers of Massachusetts Electric Company.

According to Sam Nutter, of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, "The Renewable Energy Trust is working with organizations like CET to help hundreds of homes, businesses, universities, and other buildings across Massachusetts harness clean electricity from solar panels. In just two years we have doubled the number of solar installations across the state, with over 200 new systems now registered, totaling more than one megawatt of clean energy."

For more information about the Gould Farm system or other renewable energy technologies in the Berkshires, visit www.berkshirerenewables.com or contact Nancy Nylen at CET, 413-445-4556, ext 10.

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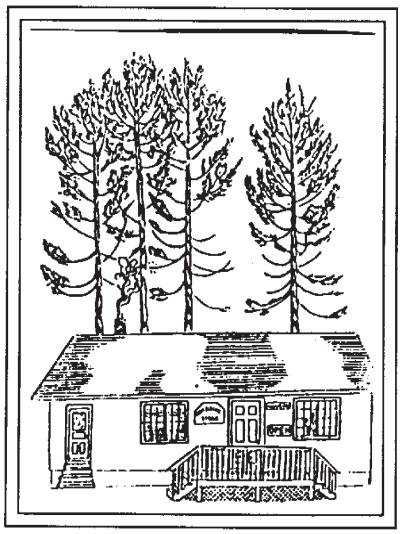

Monterey Earns Payments for Renewable Energy

Monterey, Great Barrington, and Egremont are set to receive bonus payments from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) for a renewable energy project, because more than 3% of households signed up to support clean energy. If these towns maintain this level of household participation through June 30, 2005, they will qualify for the MTC Renewable Energy Trust bonus. All seven of the communities in Massachusetts that reached or surpassed MTC's 3% goal were in western Massachusetts. Nationally, only about 1% of households participate in clean energy choice.

MTC's Clean Energy Choice program provides bonus payments of $50 per household to towns where at least 3% of residents signed up for green energy. In communities served by the Massachusetts Electric Company, residents can elect to support clean energy by paying a small premium payment on their electric bill. The $50 per household bonus is in addition to MTC's community matching grants that are earned when households pay a premium to support renewable energy.

In June, two towns will also be awarded an additional $5,000 from the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) for a solar project. This award will be given to the two Berkshire communities with the highest percentage of participation in New England GreenStart, CET's renewable energy offering available to Massachusetts Electric Company's residential and small commercial customers. The award is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Choosing to support clean energy is one way in which individuals begin to influence energy policies, by increasing demand for existing and new renewable energy supplies.

According to CET, success in Monterey, Egremont and Great Barrington was the result of the diligent efforts of citizens who spread the word to friends and neighbors. Berkshire Coop Market members receive a $5 coupon toward their Coop purchases when they enroll in GreenStart.

For more information about Clean Energy Choice, please visit: http://www.cleanenergychoice.org. To discover more about New England GreenStart, visit: www.cetonline.org or call Raya at 413-445-4556, ext 17.

Monterey Community Center

At the May 75th Annual Town Meeting, voters gave unanimous approval for the Wilson-McLaughlin House Committee and Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, Inc., to move ahead with plans for the Monterey Community Center. The Committee has met three times since town meeting and is busy working on "research and development" for all aspects of the project, from building codes and foundation options to fundraising and public relations. Look for fresh news in the months to come.

Birth Announcement

On Tuesday, May 17, 2005, Glenn Heller and Sheila Face became the parents of a 7 lb. 11 oz. baby boy, Harold Tate Heller. Father and mother are doing fine and Grandma (Marjorie K. Miner) is very happy.

Remembering Jean Minella

Jean M. Minella, 89, of Naples, passed away on Sunday, May 8, 2005. Jean moved to Naples in 1997 from Massachusetts. While living in Naples, she attended St. William Catholic Church.

She is survived by two children, Pamela Sweeney of Naples, Florida, and Dr. Philip (Shirley) Minella of Dayton,Ohio. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was held at St. Luke's Catholic Church in McLean, Virginia, followed by burial in Fairfax Memorial Park in Fairfax, Virginia.

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Remembering Ruby Bennett

Ruby Amelia Bennett, 75, of Dave's Creek Road, Franklin, N.C., formerly of Monterey, died May 11 of leukemia at WestCare Health Care System in Sylva, N.C.

Born in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on July 25, 1929, daughter of Clarence C. and Ellen Daley Kinne, she grew up in Monterey and graduated from the former Searles High School in Great Barrington. She lived in the state of Florida for many years before moving to Franklin five years ago.

Mrs. Bennett had made doughnuts at Ingles Bakery in Franklin. While in Florida, she was a dog groomer and helped manage a kennel.

She was active in the American Rabbit Breeders Association for more than twenty years and helped young people and many friends get started raising and showing rabbits.

She was formerly married to Ernest Bennett.

She leaves a son, Mark Wesley "Wes" Bennett of Pittsfield; a daughter, Janet Amelia Smith, with whom she resided; a sister, Lena Pedersen of Monterey; four grandchildren, Heather A. McNally, Holly A. Boynton, Dalen A. Smith and David S. McCLure; and three great-grandchildren, Zera A. and Gwyn A. McNally and Nora Y. Boynton. A sister, Mildred Walsh, predeceased her.

Graveside services will be held at Corashire Cemetery, Blue Hill Road, Monterey, on July 25 at 1 p.m. A reception will follow. To honor Ruby's dedication to Young Rabbit Resources, the family requests memorial donations to the American Rabbit Breeders Association Inc. Youth Scholarship Fund, 8 West Port Court, Bloomington, IL 67014.

She touched so many lives in a positive and generous manner. Family, friends, and teachers will miss her.

WWII Forum at Sandisfield Arts Center

The Sandisfield Art Center's 2005 Forum Series will be devoted to the observance of the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II. The four-program series will attempt to recapture our collective memories of the war as a military, cultural, and historical experience. The Sunday morning programs will take place in the downstairs café beginning at 10:30 a.m. and are offered free to the public. Coffee, bagels, and pastries will be served.

For Americans, World War II was "the Good War," the "Perfect War," the "Necessary War," the "Just War," the "Best War Ever." These historical memories of World War II remain virtually unchallenged after more than six decades. Commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the war's end is an appropriate time to reflect on why the war's legacy has been so enduring.

On June 26, an informal session called "Reminiscences" will give the audience an opportunity to share personal recollections (or those of older relatives and friends) of the wartime years.

On July 10, Bill Cohn, Sandisfield resident and Visiting Professor of American Studies at Trinity College in Hartford, will present "World War II in Historical Perspective." Cohn, who is also a Sandisfield Arts Center board member, will speak about the historical importance of the war, focusing on cultural responses to the familiar narrative of America in the war over the past 60 years.

On July 24, "The Poetry and Music of World War II" will be presented by author, Val Coleman, and British baritone, Ben Luxon, both Sandisfield residents and active Sandisfield Arts Center volunteers. As actors and storytellers, they will help us remember the war years through its poetry and popular music.

On July 31, Margaret O'Clair, Sandisfield resident and amateur military historian, will talk about the rise and demise of tank warfare in the twentieth century and how tank combat affected the outcome of World War II.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield, approximately 25 minutes east of Great Barrington. Once a Baptist church and orthodox synagogue, the historic building now serves Sandisfield and surrounding towns as a community arts center with unique and affordable programs. For more information, visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

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Michael Winograd, leader of **Khevre**, is considered one of the finest Klezmer clarinetists of his generation. He, along with Dana Sandler, Carmen Staaf, Eylem Basaldi, Jorge Roder, and Richie Barshay, make up the band. Of their new CD, *Oyfn Sheydveg (at the crossroads)*, **Matt Darriau** of the **klezmatics** says, "I haven't kveld for new music like this in along time."

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Sound and Fury?

To the Editor:

At the Town Meeting on May 7, voters enthusiastically approved Article 26 to direct the Governor of Massachusetts to order the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units and personnel now serving in Iraq. I wonder if steps have been taken to inform the Governor of the town's directive, and whether there has been a reply. If there has been no reply, it is time for the Select Board to seek an appointment with the Governor in Boston in order to personally acquaint him with the Town of Monterey's instructions.

If the Governor has replied that he will not follow our direction, what further steps will the Select Board take on the Town's behalf? They can ask our Constable to warn him to hereof fail not and make reply with his doings thereon.

Or was Article 26 just sound and fury, signifying nothing?

— Riccardo Boehm, Monterey

ॐ

Monterey/America Supports American Soldiers

Some residents of Monterey, including veterans whose military service dates back to the Second World War, Korea, and Vietnam, are organizing support for military men and women serving in harm's way in Iraq. The group is tentatively calling itself Monterey/America Supports You — Our Military Men and Women, after a national organization that coordinates efforts to support America's troops and their mission.

The 42nd Military Police Company has been identified as a small local unit that can be supported in a way that will have a positive effect on their morale. The company is part of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. It drilled at the Chicopee Armory prior to deployment this spring to serve as a Division Support MP Company for the 42nd Infantry Division, the famous Rainbow Division. They are serving near Tikrit, Iraq.

The MP company is part of the 211th Military Police Battalion (First Corps of Cadets), which traces its roots to 1741 as the bodyguard for the royal governor of Massachusetts. Their motto is *Monstrat Viam,* "It Points the Way." As it is the Commonwealth's and the National Guard's oldest volunteer militia unit, it has served the nation in five wars. In state service it has provided assistance to protect life and property, to preserve peace, order, and public safety, and to provide assistance during disaster relief operations. The companies that have not been mobilized to national service continue to drill in Chicopee.

Monterey/America plans to collect and send messages of thanks for the troopers' service and sacrifice. They will also be sent gifts that include T-shirts with the message "Monterey/America Supports You." Children at the Monterey School will also be sending messages to the troopers.

The group organizing this effort says that American soldiers will welcome sincere and positive messages of support that place a value on what military men and women are achieving as they carry out their difficult and dangerous mission.

Anyone interested in more information can contact Dean Amidon or Leroy Thorpe. Riccardo Boehm and Kenn Basler at the Monterey General Store will provide letter writers with Monterey artist Frank D'Amato's notepaper, illustrated with scenes of the village. The notes will be delivered to Chicopee together with the gift items for forwarding to Iraq. The package should be ready by mid-June.

ॐ

CHARLES J. FERRIS
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General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Every Thursday in June: The Bidwell House Museum is offering docent training at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch with the director and members of the staff.

Saturday June 4:

Black Fly Day in Tolland, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Fly Market," parade, silent auction and raffle, entertainment, and kid's activities.

Open House at Robert Woods Farm, 1–4 p.m., 45 Art School Road, Monterey.

Wednesday, June 8:

Wine and Cheese reception at Monterey General Store to honor retiring Library Director Anne Makuc, 4:30–6 p.m.

Southern Berkshire Friends Meeting sponsors a discussion on Darfur, 7–9 p.m. at Friends Meetinghouse. See p.17.

Thursday, June 9: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by the Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, June 11:

Rhythms of rural life in colonial Monterey and Tyringham will be celebrated by a ceremonial blessing of the house and lands to open the season at the Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road, 11:00 a.m. See p.9.

Highland Communities Initiative offers a 3 mile trek of October Mt. in Washington with Mike Whalen & Aimee Gelinas, 10–1 p.m. Cost $15. Preregister at 413-268-8219 or e-mail jchristensen@ttor.org.

Meeting of Sandisfield Historical Society at 11 a.m. All welcome, potluck lunch.

Sunday, June 12: Benefit brunch for WBCR 97.7 FM, local radio at Club Helsinki, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Folk performers Kim & Reggie Harris. Tickets $15, call (413) 528-3394 for reservations.

Tuesday, June 14: Flag Day

Saturday, June 18: Sandisfield Arts Center presents an evening of Klezmer with Khevre 8 p.m. Tickets $15. Call 413-258-4100 for reservations or information.

Sunday, June 19: Father's Day

Monday, June 20: Meeting for those interested in serving on Education Committee, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Tuesday, June 21: Summer Solstice

Wednesday, June 22: Full Moon

Friday, June 24: Monterey Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. at the General Knox Museum, Monterey Library. Dr. Martha LaCroix Dailey will speak on the Iroquois Confederation.

Saturday, June 25:

Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) meets at the Firehouse at 9:30 a.m.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Jon Greene. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Sunday, June 26: First of a series on WWII at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 10:30 a.m. See p. 24.

The Observer
April 26–May 25

High temp. (5/12)	81°
Low temp. (5/5)	26°
Avg. high temp.	61.3°
Avg. low temp.	36.9°
Avg. temp.	49.1°
Total precipitation (rain and trace of snow)	2.21"

Precipitation occurred on 18 days.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 19; Maureen Banner, pp. 17, 23;
George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

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